

COVID-19 WATCH

Weekly Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Surveillance Report



March 23, 2021

Data through week ending 3/20/2021

Summary of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, San Diego County Residents

Cases

267,728

Median Age

36

Range 0-108

Deaths

3,494

Median Age

77

Range 10-106

Outbreaks

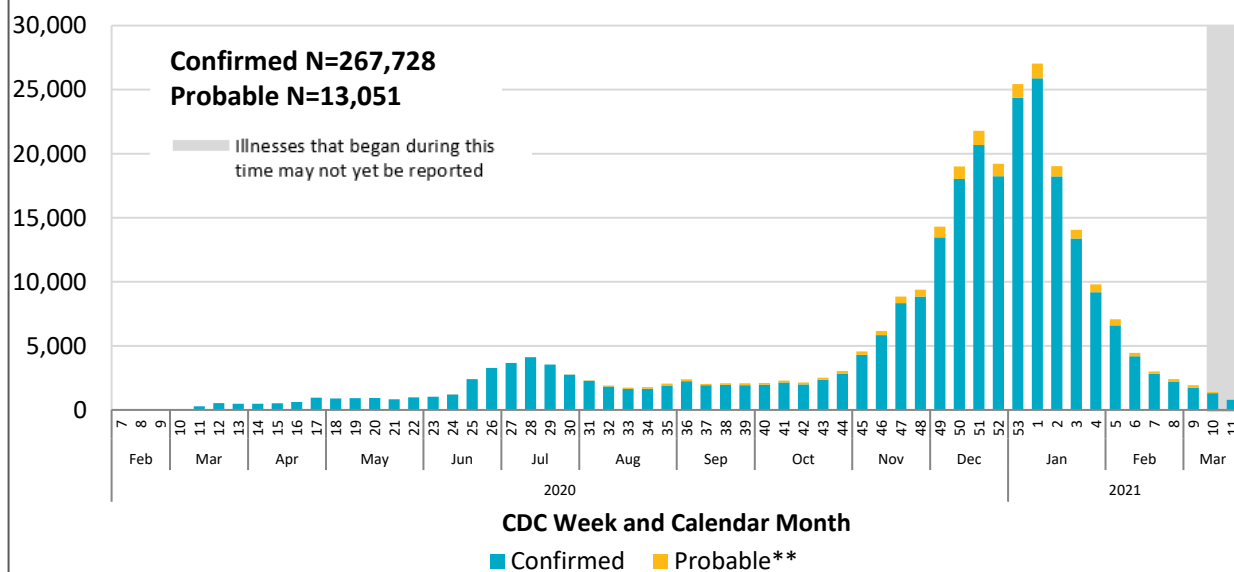
1,947

Percentage in
Congregate
Settings

27%

COVID-19 Confirmed and Probable Cases by Onset* Week

Figure 1. COVID-19 Confirmed and Probable Cases by Week of Illness Onset*, San Diego County Residents, N=280,779



*When onset date is unavailable, specimen collection date, date of death, or date reported is used instead.

**Probable cases are antigen positive tests received since August 1, 2020.

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Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Deaths

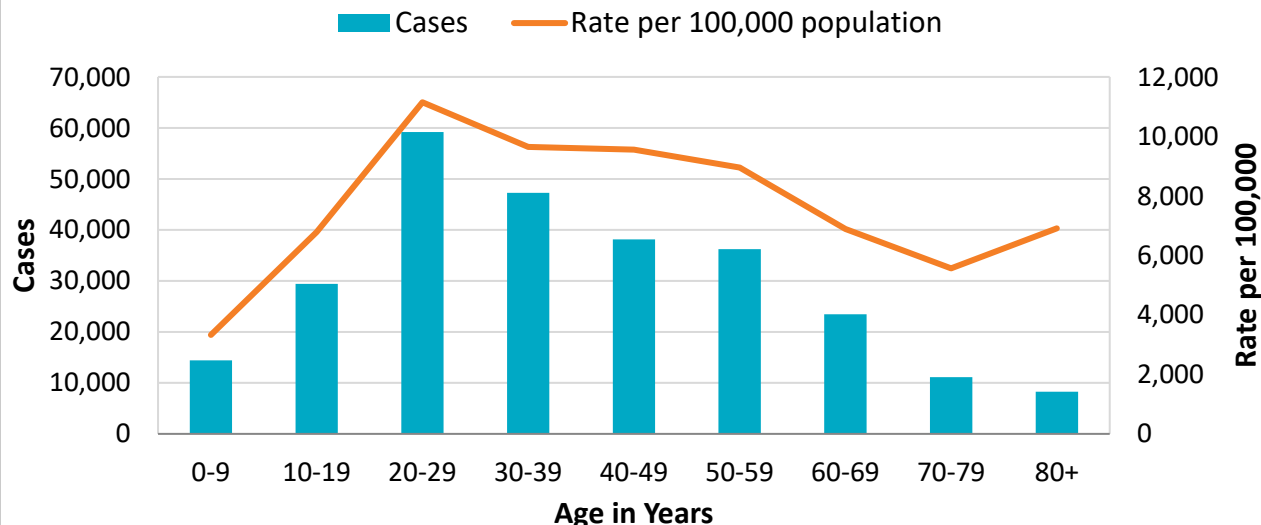
Summary of San Diego County Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Deaths			
Confirmed cases	267,728	Deaths	3,494
Hospitalizations	13,447 (5%)	Underlying Conditions	3,359 (96%)
Illness onset date range*	2/14/2020-3/20/2021	Death date range	3/21/2020-3/18/2021
Median age	36 years	Median age	77 years
Age range	0-108 years	Age range	10-106 years
Male	128,739 (48%)	Male	2,064 (59%)
Female	136,910 (52%)	Female	1,430 (41%)
Healthcare workers	11,692 (4%)	Case Fatality Ratio	1.3%
Summary of Non-County Resident COVID-19 Cases			
Confirmed cases	18,754	Hospitalizations	1,119 (6%)

*When onset date is unavailable, specimen collection date, date of death, or date reported is used instead.

Note: percentage hospitalized and healthcare workers are calculated based on the total number of cases; information may be unknown in some cases. Hospitalization counts are likely underreported and may increase as additional information is obtained.

Demographic Summary of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

**Figure 2. Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Age Group
San Diego County Residents, N=267,728**

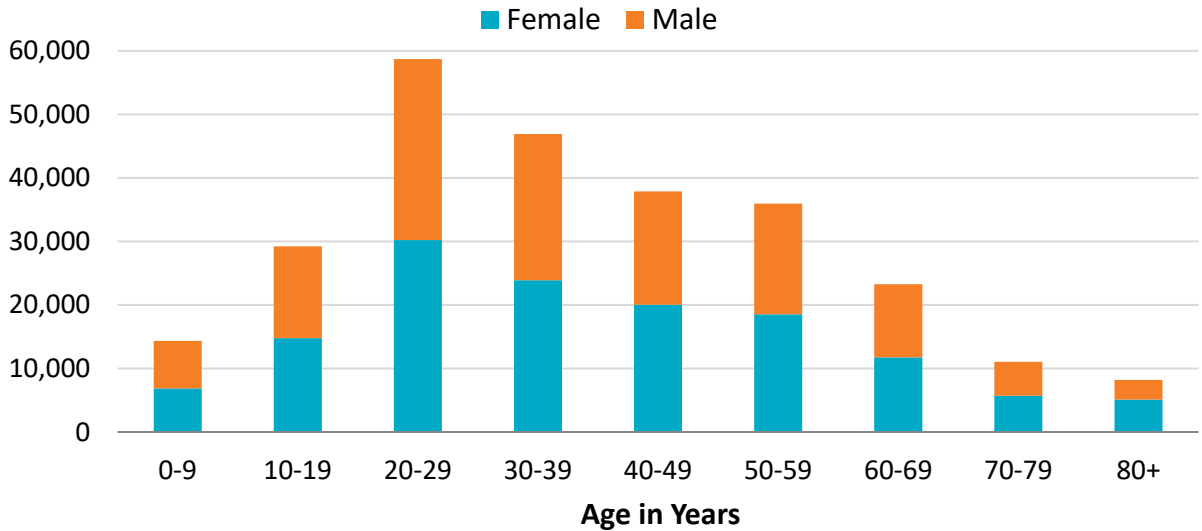


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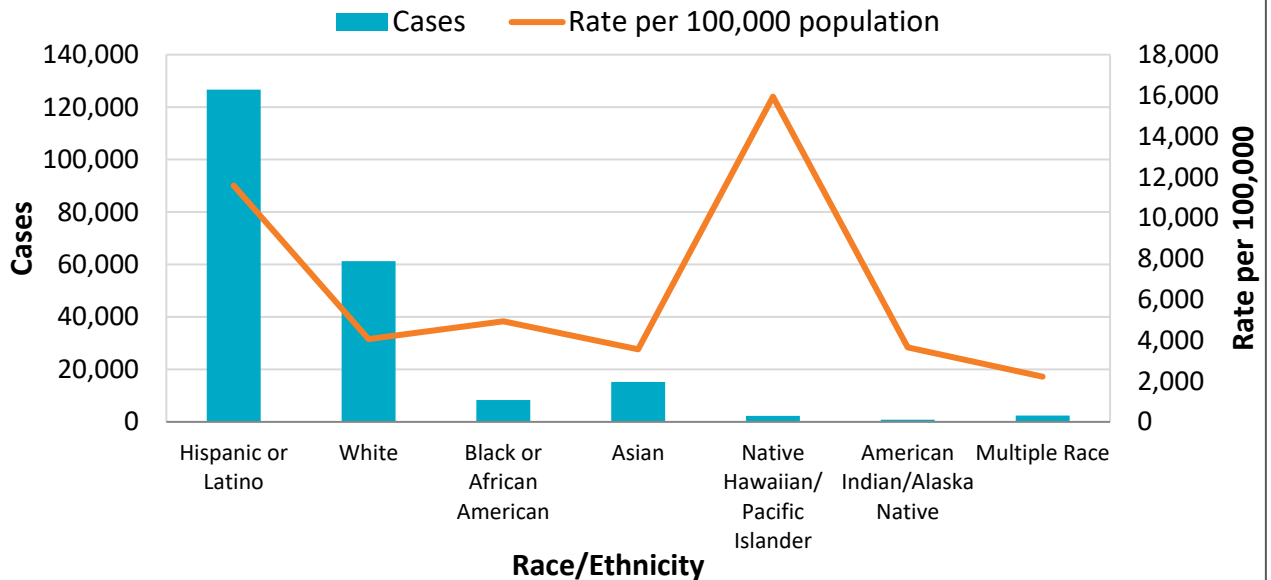
Data through week ending 3/20/2021

Demographic Summary of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases (continued)

**Figure 3. Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Sex and Age Group
San Diego County Residents, N=267,728**



**Figure 4. Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Race/Ethnicity
San Diego County Residents, N=216,878***



*Race and ethnicity are unknown for 50,850 cases.

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COVID-19 Confirmed Case, Hospitalization, and Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 5. Age-Adjusted Rates of COVID-19 Cases by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County Residents

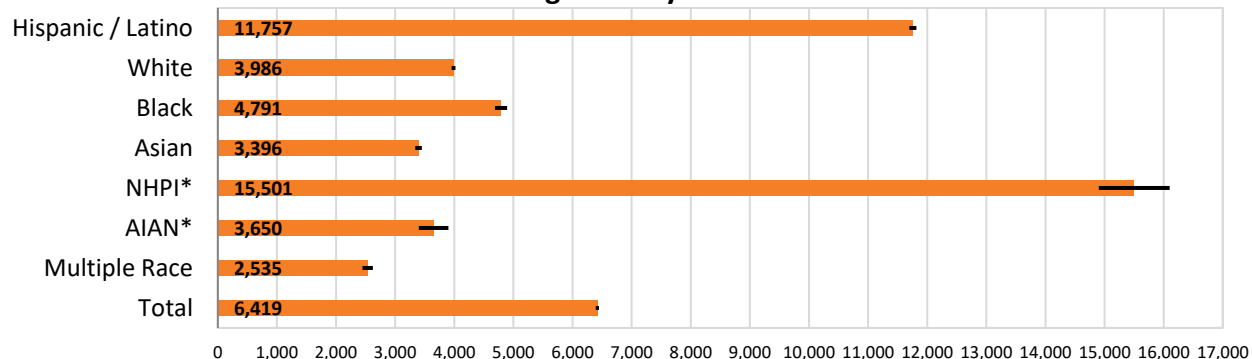


Figure 6. Age-Adjusted Rates of COVID-19 Hospitalizations by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County Residents

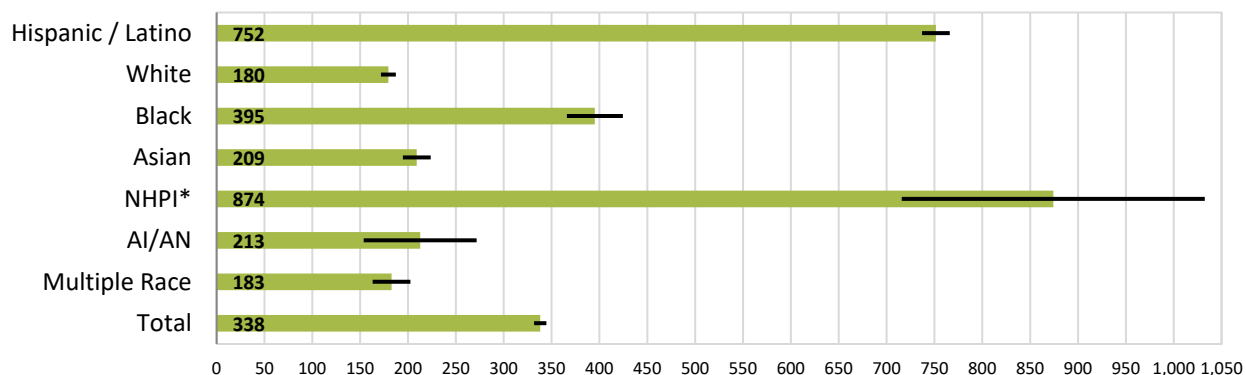
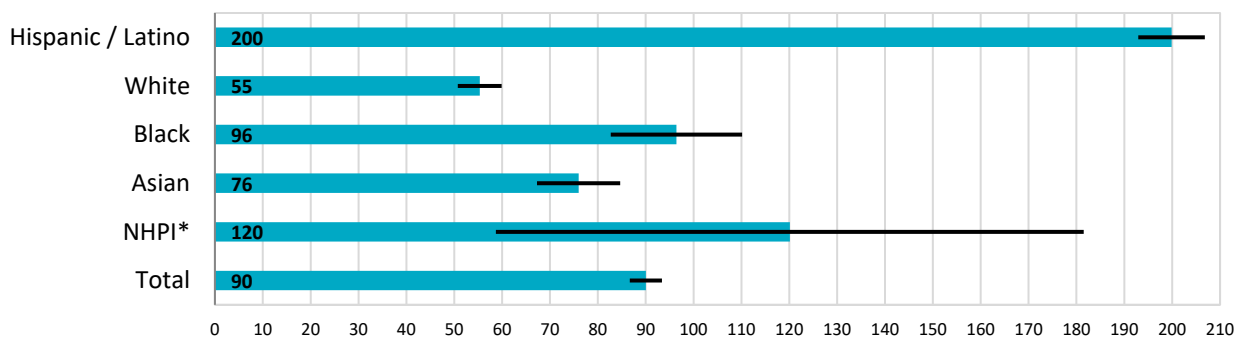


Figure 7. Age-Adjusted Rates of COVID-19 Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County Residents



The black lines represent the 95% confidence intervals (error bars). Rates are not calculated for less than 20 events.

*NHPI=Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, AIAN=American Indian/Alaska Native.

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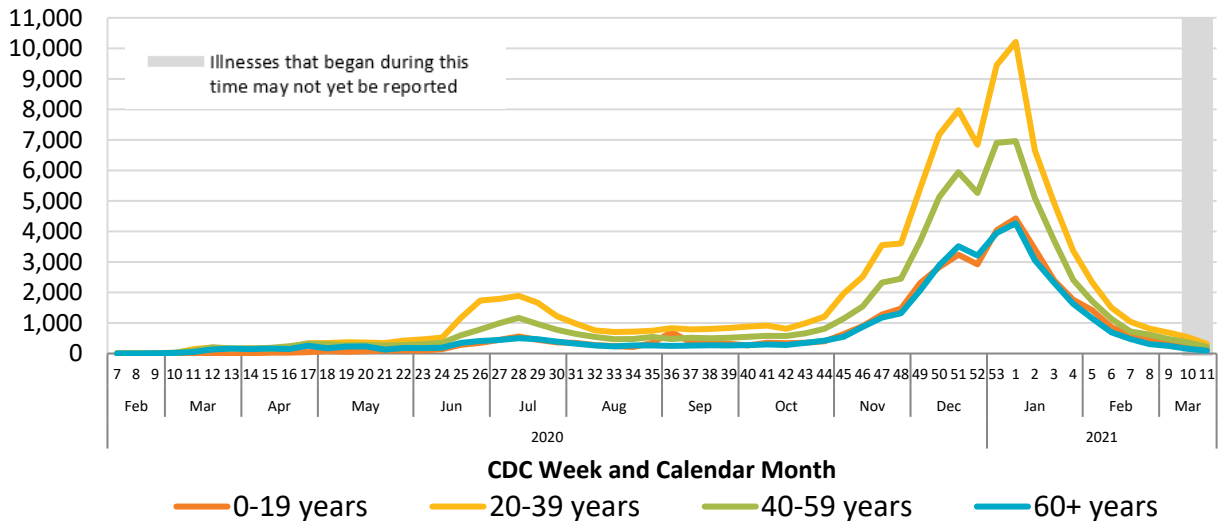


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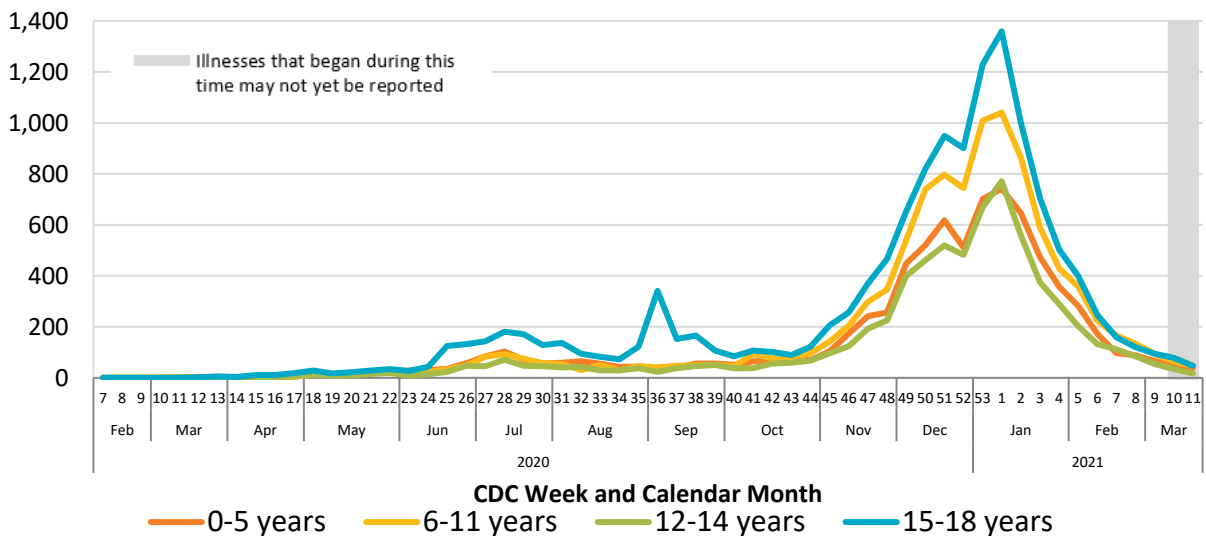
Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Age and Week

Figure 8. COVID-19 Confirmed Cases by Age Group and Week of Illness Onset*, San Diego County Residents, N=267,728



*When onset date is unavailable, specimen collection date, date of death, or date reported is used instead.

Figure 9. COVID-19 Confirmed Cases for Ages 0-18 Years by Week of Illness Onset*, San Diego County Residents, N=38,290



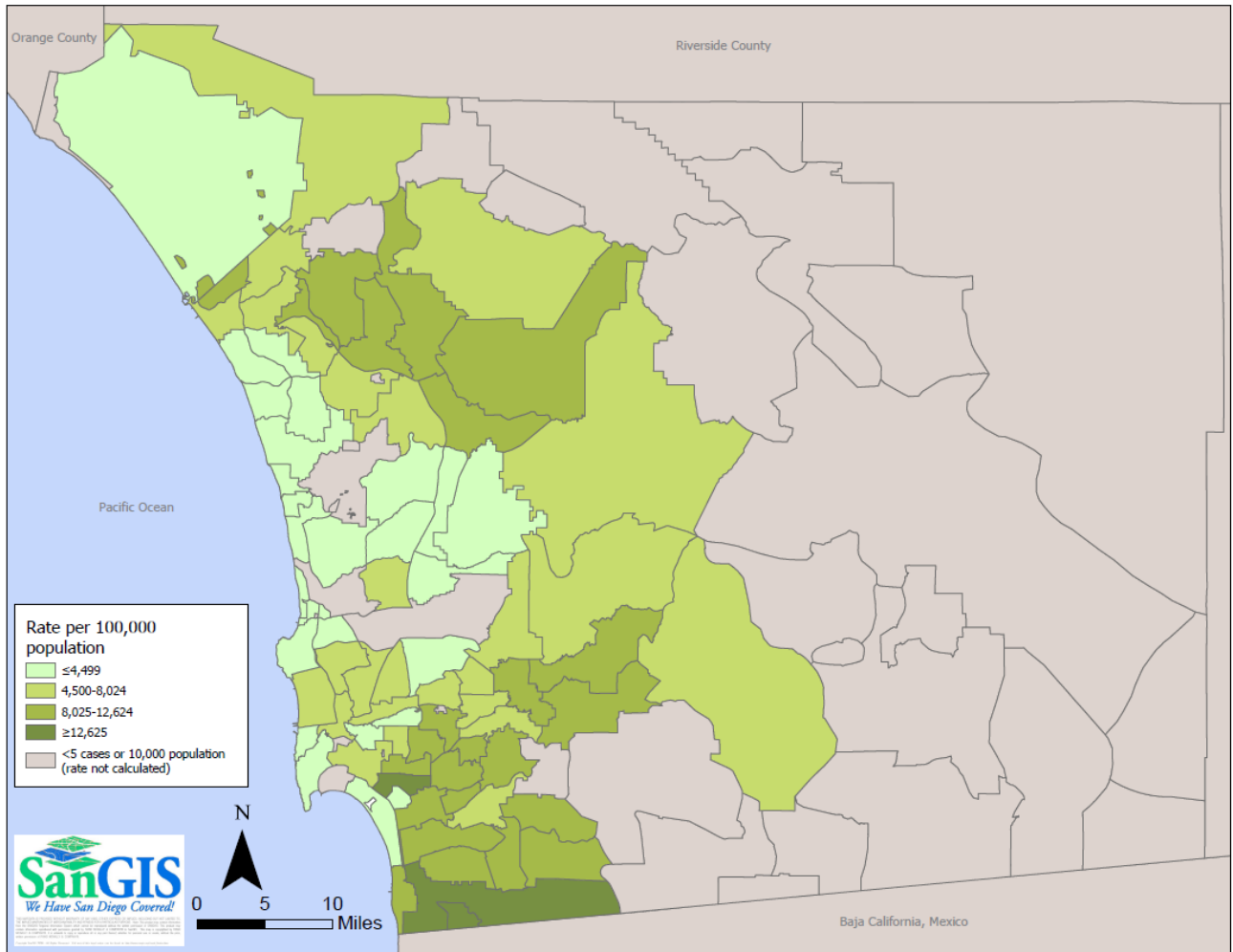
*When onset date is unavailable, specimen collection date, date of death, or date reported is used instead.

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Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Geography

**Figure 10. Cumulative COVID-19 Rates by Zip Code of Residence,
San Diego County
(Countywide Rate = 7,988 per 100,000 Population)**



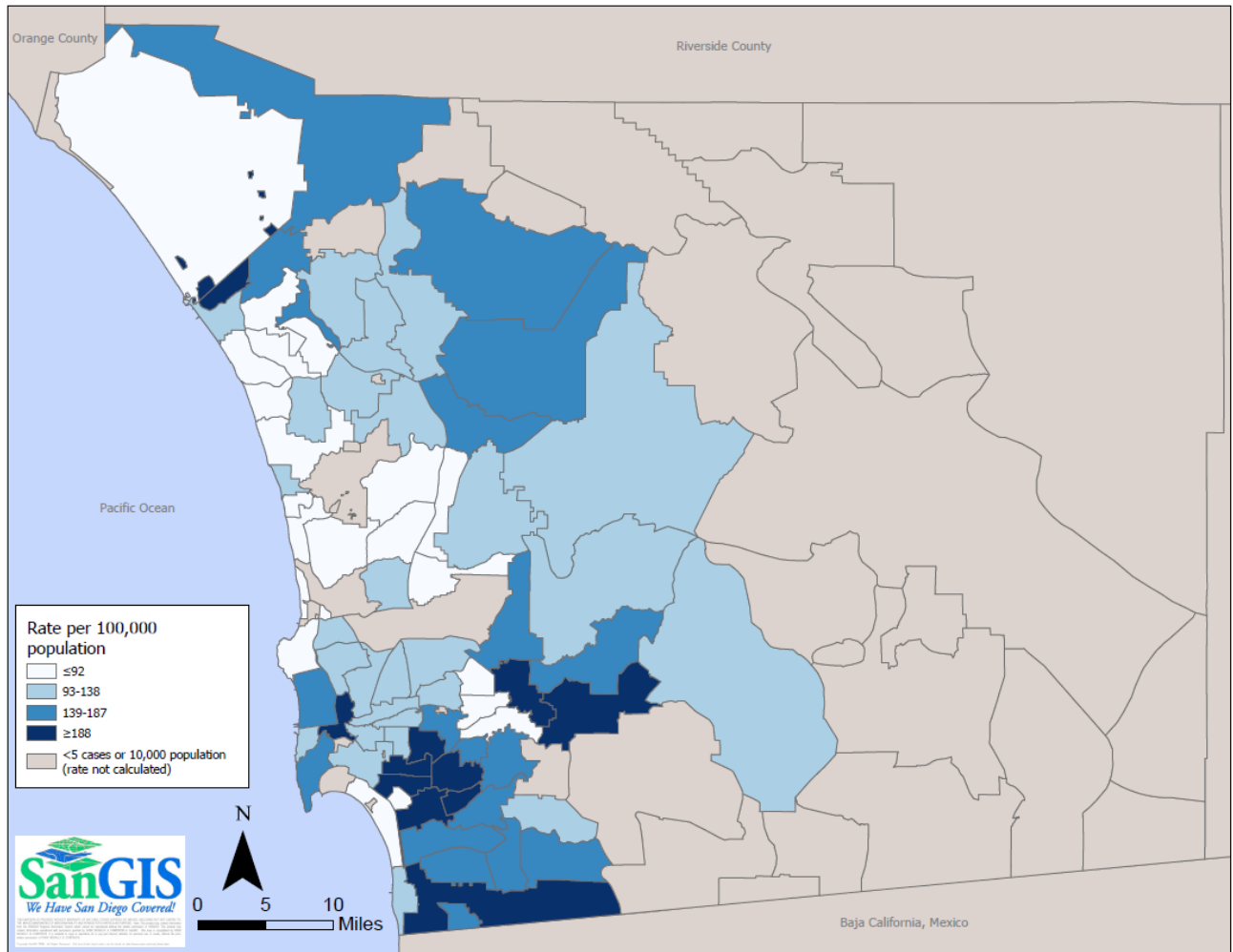
Rates calculated using 2019 population estimates from the San Diego Association of Governments. Rates not calculated for counts under 5 cases or populations less than 10,000. Zip code is zip code of residence, which may not be location of exposure. Case [counts and rates](#) for each zip code are updated routinely on the County of San Diego COVID-19 website.

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Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Geography (continued)

**Figure 11. COVID-19 Rates by Zip Code of Residence, 3/7/2021-3/20/2021,
San Diego County
(Countywide Rate = 147 per 100,000 Population)**



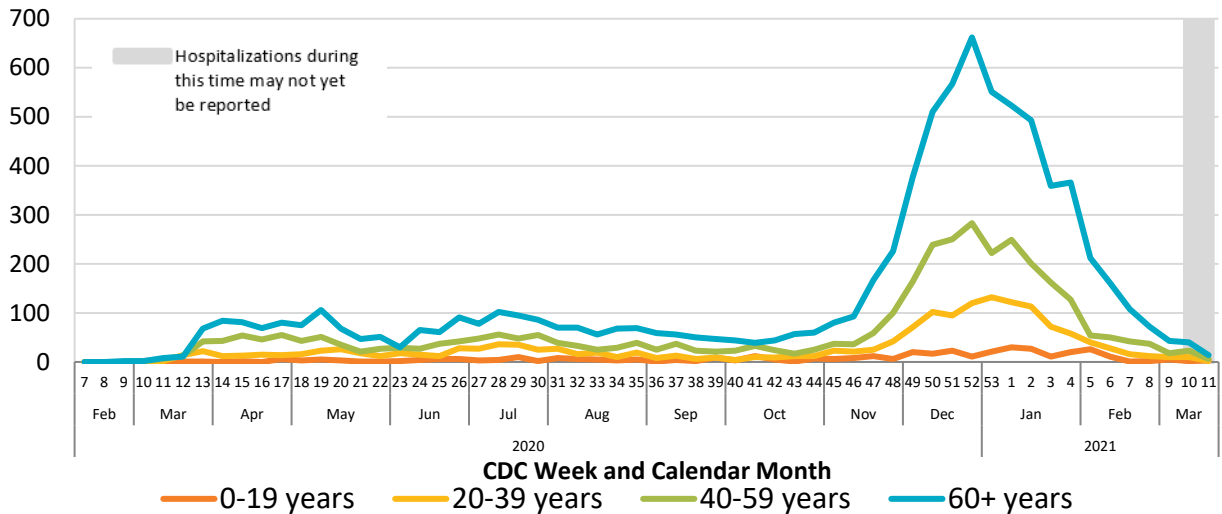
Rates calculated using 2019 population estimates from the San Diego Association of Governments. Rates not calculated for counts under 5 cases or populations less than 10,000. Zip code is zip code of residence, which may not be location of exposure. Case [counts and rates](#) for each zip code are updated routinely on the County of San Diego COVID-19 website.

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Confirmed COVID-19 Hospitalizations by Age and Week

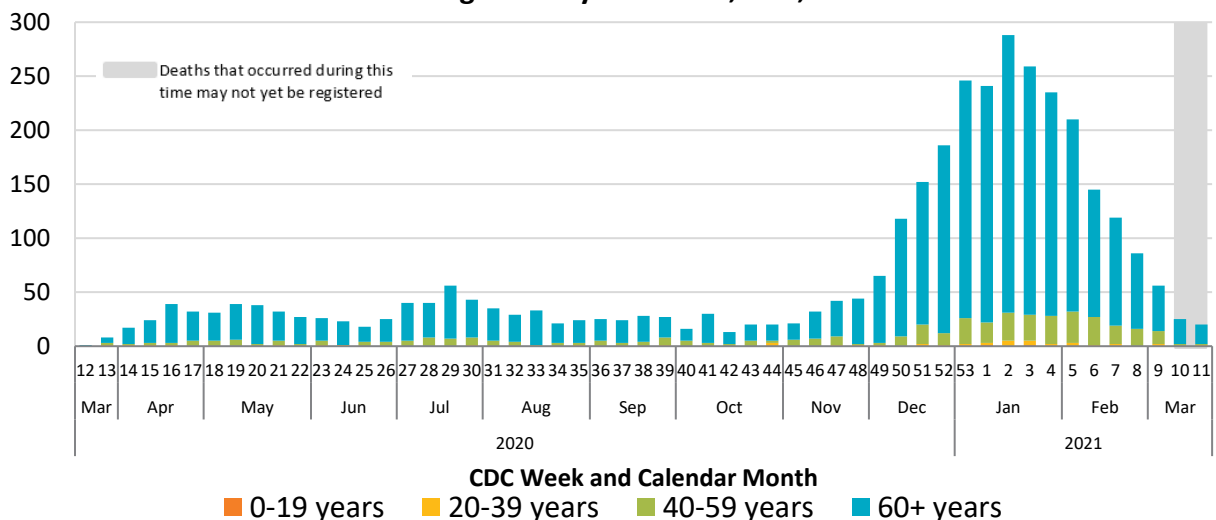
Figure 12. COVID-19 Hospitalizations by Age Group and Week of Hospital Admission, San Diego County Residents, N=13,447*



*Admit date and age are unknown for some hospitalizations. Hospitalization counts are likely underreported and may increase as additional information is obtained.

Summary of COVID-19-associated Deaths

Figure 13. COVID-19 Deaths by Week of Death San Diego County Residents, N=3,494



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Summary of COVID-19-associated Deaths (continued)

**Figure 14. Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Case Fatality Rate
San Diego County Residents
(All Age Case Fatality Rate=1.3%)**

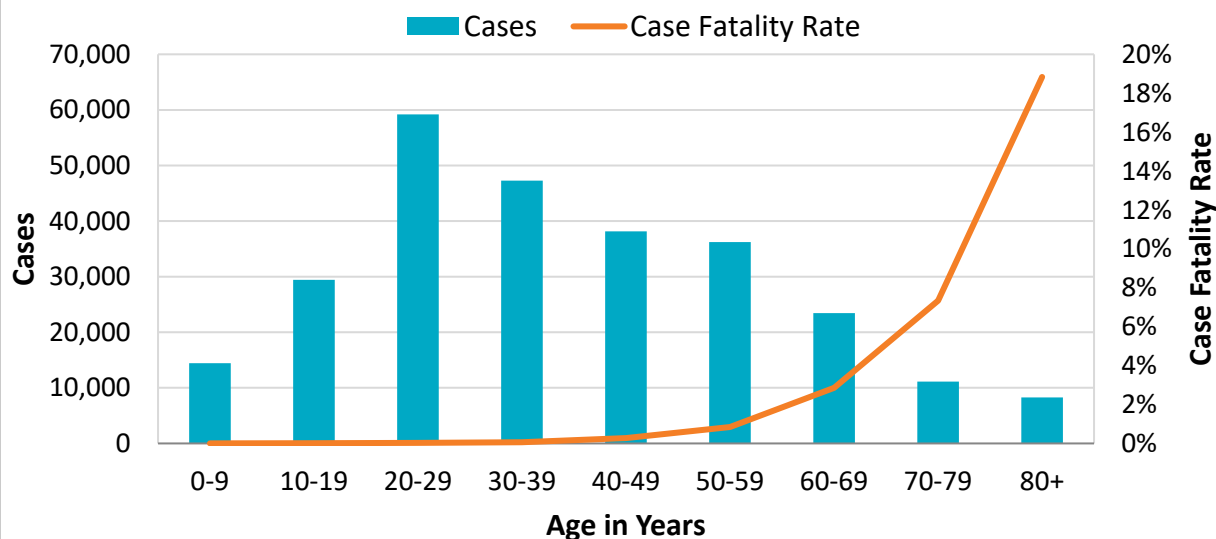
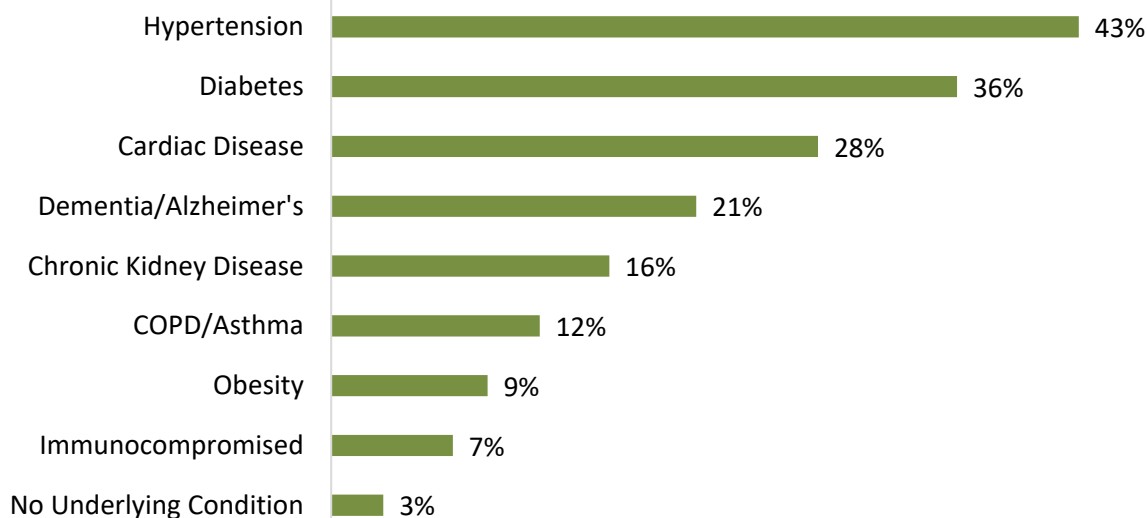


Figure 15. Common Underlying Conditions, COVID-associated Deaths



Persons may have more than one underlying condition. These data are abstracted from death certificates and available medical records and may not reflect a complete list of underlying conditions for each person.

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COVID-19 Potential Exposure Settings

Table 2. COVID-19 Potential Exposure Settings, San Diego County Residents

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of persons reporting potential exposures in community settings is an indication of movement of persons during the 2-14 days prior to their onset of symptoms (or specimen collection if asymptomatic). Persons may be exposed in multiple settings, including in community exposure settings, in the household, in educational settings, and during travel. Persons may have potential exposures in more than one community, household, or other setting. Potential exposure in any of these settings does not indicate a confirmed source of infection. 				
Confirmed COVID-19 Case Summary	Last 2 Weeks (3/7 – 3/20)		Cumulative (6/5 – 3/20)	
Total Positive Cases	4,931		259,481	
Number Interviewed	1,894		123,510	
Selected Exposures among those with Completed Interviews	Count	%	Count	%
Potential Community Exposure Settings^a				
At least one potential community exposure setting ^b	829	43.8%	53,625	43.4%
Bars and Restaurants	205	10.8%	8,508	6.9%
Casinos	11	0.6%	1,011	0.8%
Group Gatherings	18	1.0%	2,808	2.3%
Gyms	13	0.7%	492	0.4%
Hair Salons or Barbers	52	2.7%	2,178	1.8%
Places of Worship	47	2.5%	2,376	1.9%
Protests	0	0.0%	47	0.0%
Retail locations	182	9.6%	11,646	9.4%
Workplaces ^c	571	30.1%	39,148	31.7%
No potential community exposure setting reported	1,065	56.2%	69,885	56.6%
Average number of community settings visited	1.5		1.4	
Range of community settings visited	1-11		1-24	
Household Exposures^d	633	33.4%	45,367	36.7%
Any On-site Education-related Exposures	140	7.4%	4,979	4.0%
Childcare/Preschools	22	1.2%	1,142	0.9%
K-12 schools	96	5.1%	2,823	2.3%
Colleges/Universities	26	1.4%	1,107	0.9%
Any Travel-related Exposures	223	11.8%	16,589	13.4%
Travel within the United States	172	9.1%	10,202	8.3%
Travel to Mexico	45	2.4%	6,021	4.9%
Travel to Another International Location	6	0.3%	190	0.2%

^a Potential community exposure settings are defined as indoor or outdoor locations in which cases came within 6 feet of anyone who was not a household member for at least 15 minutes during the 2-14 days prior to symptom onset, even if the case wore a mask or facial covering. Potential exposure settings are places case-patients visited during their exposure period, not confirmed sources of infection. Persons may have visited more than one location.

^b Effective 11/24/2020, travel exposures are excluded from community exposure settings.

^c Workplaces may include other community settings (e.g., bar/restaurant, hair salon, retail).

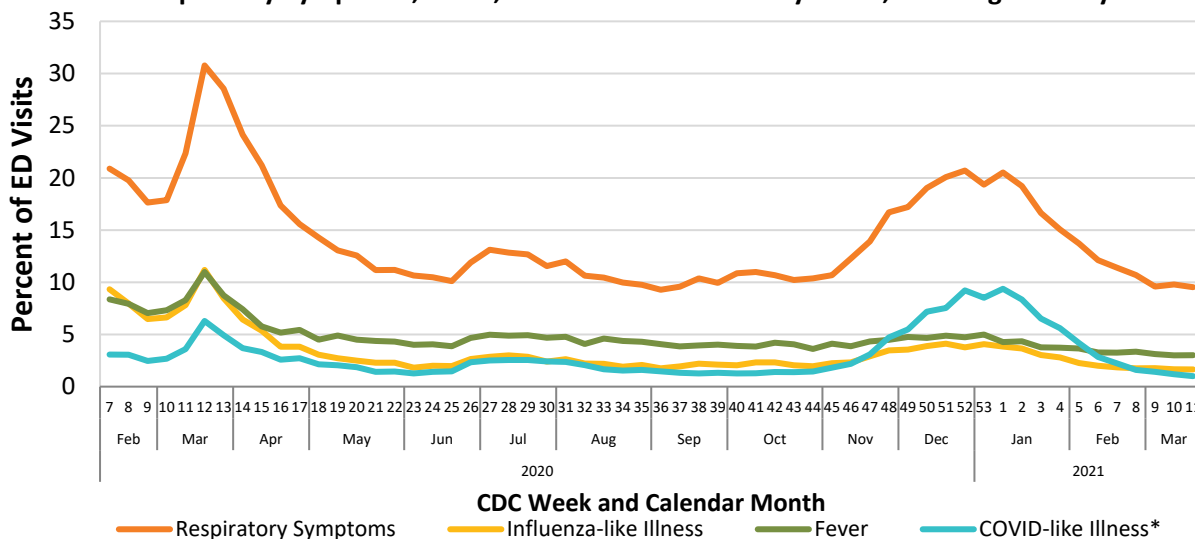
^d Persons with household exposures reported having close contact with someone in their household with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, though this was not independently verified. Household exposures may have occurred outside the 2-14 days prior to symptom onset.

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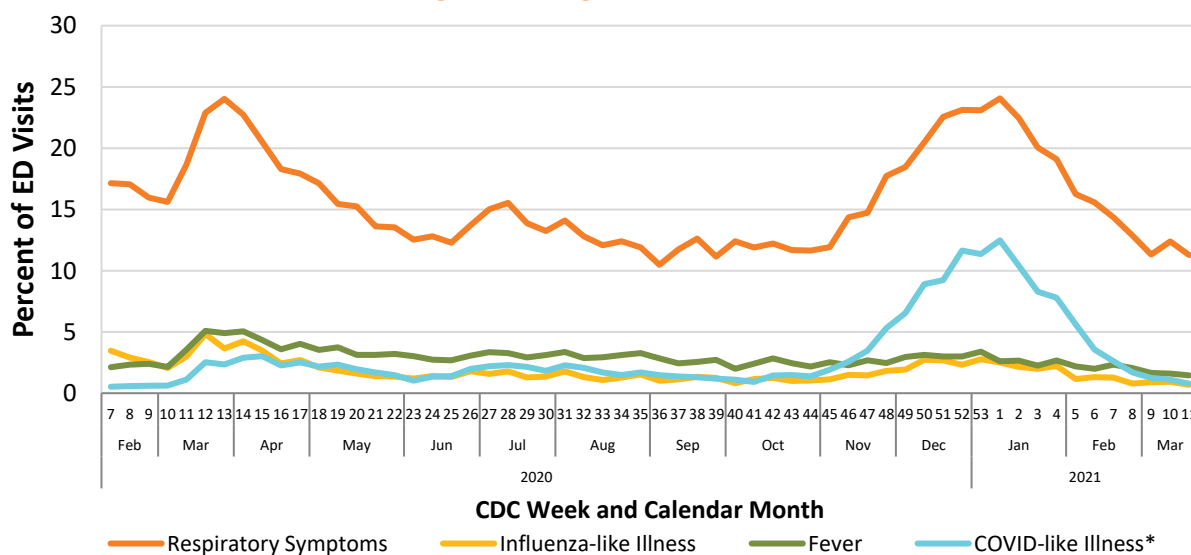
Emergency Department Data

Figure 16. Percent of Emergency Department Visit Chief Complaints for ILI, Respiratory Symptoms, Fever, or COVID-like Illness* by Week, San Diego County



Categories are not mutually exclusive. *COVID-like Illness includes fever and cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing OR coronavirus diagnostic codes.

**Figure 17. Percent of Emergency Department Visit Chief Complaints for ILI, Respiratory Symptoms, Fever, or COVID-like Illness* by Week, San Diego County
Among Patients Age 60 Years or Older**



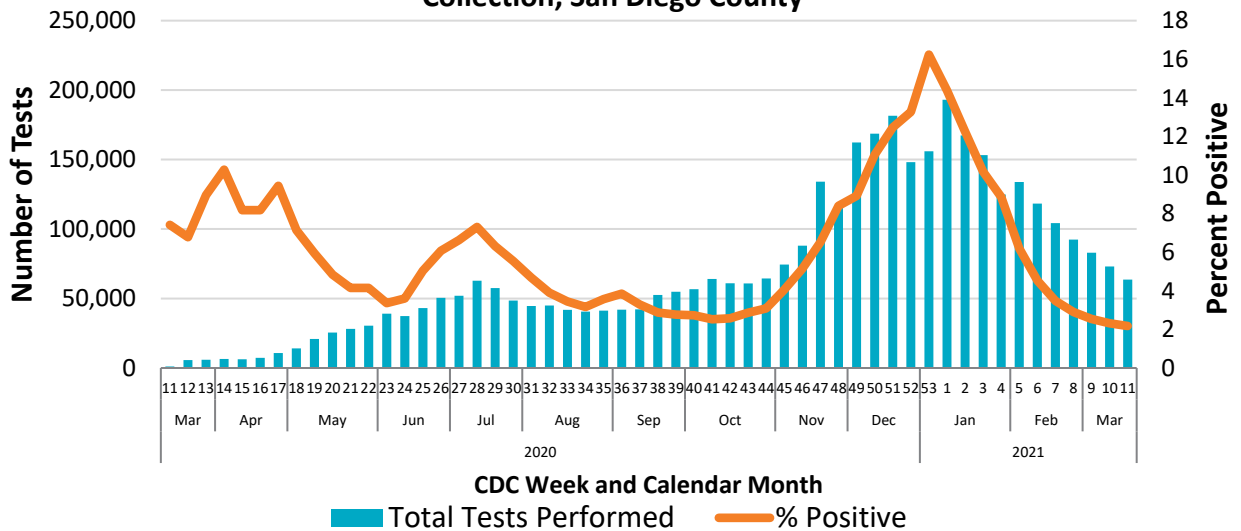
Categories are not mutually exclusive. *COVID-like Illness includes fever and cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing OR coronavirus diagnostic codes.

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COVID-19 Laboratory Test Positivity Rate

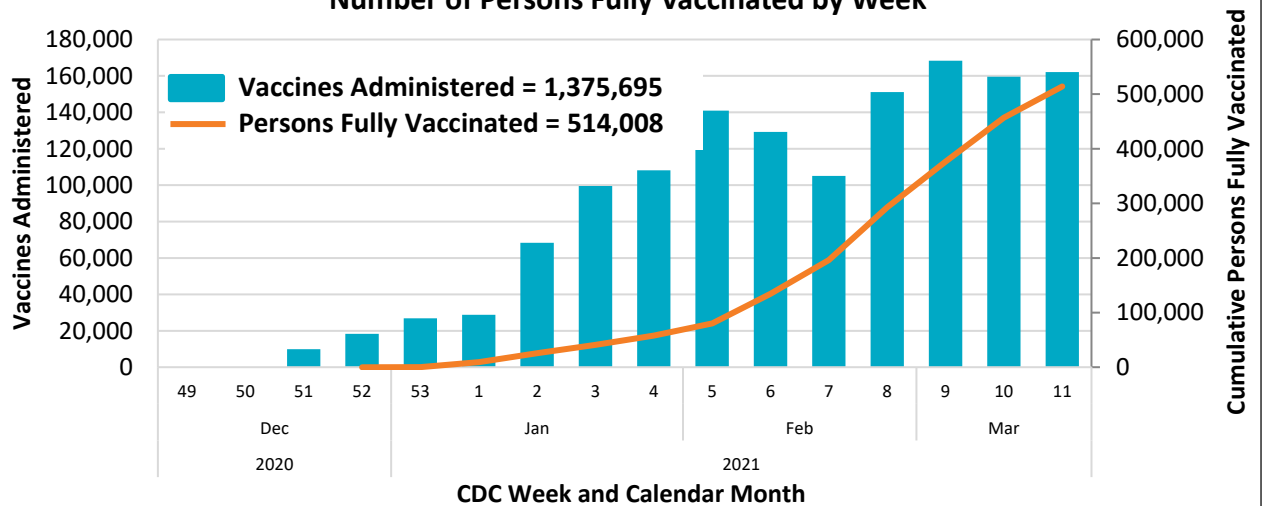
Figure 18. COVID-19 Testing Volume and Positivity by Week of Specimen Collection, San Diego County



Includes PCR tests performed by COSD Public Health, hospital, and reference laboratories and reported via Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) and line lists. Excludes invalid, indeterminate, and unsatisfactory results.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Figure 19. Number of COVID-19 Vaccinations Administered and Cumulative Number of Persons Fully Vaccinated by Week



The bars show vaccines administered, not individuals vaccinated. The line shows the cumulative number of persons fully vaccinated per the dose and schedule regimen for the vaccine received. Only includes vaccines that have been recorded in the San Diego Immunization Registry (SDIR). Some healthcare providers, including Veteran's Affairs, the Department of Defense, some tribal entities, and prisons do not report to SDIR. See this [dashboard](#), updated daily, for more detailed vaccine status information for San Diego County.

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COVID-19 Watch Data Sources

The following sources of data are used to produce this report:

- **COVID-19 case reports:** Medical providers and laboratories report individual cases of PCR-confirmed COVID-19 via fax or electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) to the County of San Diego Epidemiology Unit.
- **COVID-19 deaths:** The County of San Diego requests that all deaths related to COVID-19 be reported for surveillance purposes. Medical facilities may report these deaths directly to the Epidemiology Unit or they may be identified by the Office of Vital Records through death certificate registration. The Epidemiology Unit compiles the data, and only reports deaths that can be verified by a death certificate.
- **Emergency Department Chief Complaint Data:** Electronic emergency department data are reported to the Epidemiology Unit daily. The number of respiratory chief complaints and the number of total emergency department visits are used to calculate percentages for all respiratory-related visits and visits specific to influenza-like illness, fever, and COVID.
- **COVID-19 outbreaks:**
 - Skilled Nursing Facilities: at least one case of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in a resident.
 - Non-SNF Institution/Congregate Settings: at least one case of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in the setting of ≥ 2 cases of acute illness compatible with COVID-19 in residents or staff members of residential congregate settings with onset within a 14-day period.
 - Community settings: three or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in different households in a cluster of 2 or more acute illnesses compatible with COVID-19** with onset within a 14-day period.
- **COVID-19 vaccinations:** Number of vaccinations registered in the San Diego Immunization Registry (SDIR) by participating providers. Some providers, including the VA, DoD, other military, some tribal, and prisons do not report to SDIR.
- **SANDAG population estimates, vintage 2019:** Rates are calculated using 2019 population estimates from the San Diego Association of Governments. Rates are not calculated for counts under five cases.

The purpose of the weekly **COVID-19 Watch** is to summarize current COVID-19 surveillance in San Diego County.

Data are preliminary and may change due to delayed reporting and additional information obtained during investigations.